



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**  
Office of Planning, Environment and Realty

# Office of **REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real\\_estate/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/)

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty supports and conducts research to improve transportation decision making and promote efficiency while protecting communities and the environment. The Office's research:

- Informs Decisions
- Reduces Environmental Impacts
- Improves Quality of Life
- Streamlines Project Delivery
- Integrates Planning

The following document highlights specific research activities in the Office of Real Estate Services. For more information, please visit [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/map-21\\_research/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/map-21_research/)

## **OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

FHWA's Office of Real Estate Services develops and implements programs and activities to advance the fair and equitable acquisition and management of real property.

### **Research Focus**

The Office's research activities focus on:

- Improving local agency effectiveness of the acquisition and management of highway real property interests.
- Developing improved methodology, technology, and systems for right-of-way agencies.
- Advancing technological innovations for property management such as integrated database resources and Internet access. This is also useful for outdoor advertising and junkyard control and access management.

The Office's research goals include:

- Streamlining current processes.
- Identifying additional ways to improve the state of the practice in right-of-way and outdoor advertising and junkyard control.
- Developing automation and tools that save time, cut administrative costs, and help ensure timely assistance to the public.

Another effort is to examine and identify needed changes to the government-wide rule on real property acquisition, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

For more information, please contact, Mary Jane Daluge at 202-366-2035 or [maryjane.daluge@dot.gov](mailto:maryjane.daluge@dot.gov).

## FEATURED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Alternative Uses of Right-of-Way

This research provides transportation agencies with information that enables them to consider the implications, and evaluate the feasibility of implementing renewable energy and fuel options in the right-of-way. The report's findings focus on a series of interviews with stakeholders representing State highway right-of-way renewable energy and alternative fuel facility projects that are in varying stages of completion, and that utilize or are pursuing a range of technologies. **Staff Contact:** Bruce Bradley, 202-493-0564, [bruce.bradley@dot.gov](mailto:bruce.bradley@dot.gov).

### Implementation of Notices and Offers by Electronic Methods: Process Streamlining

This research will provide FHWA with technical information aimed at improving how internet-based systems can be used to streamline the acquisition process. The FHWA will feature an option to allow property owners or occupants to use current technology to receive right-of-way acquisition offers and notices by "electronic means," when an agency can demonstrate secure receipt of the acquisition information. **Staff Contact:** Bruce Bradley, 202-493-0564, [bruce.bradley@dot.gov](mailto:bruce.bradley@dot.gov).

### Option Contract Research

MAP -21 amended section 108 of U.S.C. 23 striking "real property," "right-of-way," and "rights-of-way," replacing those terms with "real property interests," making it possible for State departments of transportation (SDOTs) to use option contracts in Advance Acquisition projects. The research will examine what types of options are appropriate for SDOT usage, how option considerations should be determined, and if and to what extent Federal funds should participate in the option consideration. **Staff Contact:** John Turpin, 202-366-5853, [john.turpin@dot.gov](mailto:john.turpin@dot.gov).

### Electronic vs. Paper Systems

This research will provide FHWA and State and local DOTs with a toolkit using tangible and easy to understand documentation with quantitative metrics. The toolkit will assist these professionals as they endeavor to get leadership buy-in to support implementation of Integrated Electronic Right-of-Way Management Systems. **Staff Contact:** Rosemary Jones, 202-366-2042, [rosemary.jones@dot.gov](mailto:rosemary.jones@dot.gov).

### Early Acquisition: Statewide Land Use, Environment and Transportation Planning Requirements – Examining Reimbursable State-Funded Early Acquisition under MAP-21 Section 1302

This report offers an analysis of how States have interpreted or implemented mandatory comprehensive and coordinated land use, environment, and transportation planning processes required in section 1302 as codified in 23 U.S.C. 108, challenges they have met in doing so, and opportunities that exist to further clarify the section's requirements. The final report should be ready for publication in November 2015. **Staff Contact:** Bruce Bradley, 202-493-0564, [bruce.bradley@dot.gov](mailto:bruce.bradley@dot.gov).

### Urban Routes Study Identifying FAP 6/1/91 Urban Routes

This research project will be used to map and conflate federal aid primary urban routes with the previously mapped federal aid rural routes. It will be used to help Divisions and States provide more effective outdoor advertising control. **Staff Contact:** Clifford Pearson, 202-366-9488, [clifford.pearson@dot.gov](mailto:clifford.pearson@dot.gov).